

WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Monday, December 3, 2012, for the purpose of meeting with the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission.

Mayor Davis started the meeting at 8:00 p.m. It was held in the Council Room of the Municipal Building.

PRESENT WERE: Councilmembers Konrad E. Herling, Emmett V. Jordan, Leta M. Mach, Silke I. Pope, Edward V.J. Putens, Rodney M. Roberts and Mayor Judith F. Davis.

STAFF PRESENT WERE: Michael P. McLaughlin, City Manager; and Cindy Murray, City Clerk.

ALSO PRESENT WERE: Eugene Williams, Government Relations Manager, Tom Traber, Chief Financial Officer, and Kevin Selock, WSSC; Eldon Ralph, General Manager, Chuck Hess and Ed James, Board Members, Greenbelt Homes, Inc.

Following introductions, Mayor Davis explained the stakeholder process and thanked the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) representatives for attending.

Status of Water Line Replacement Project in Greenbelt Homes Inc.

Mr. Williams reported that the water line replacement project in Greenbelt Homes Inc. (GHI) had reached a stalemate with no resolution being reached between the parties regarding the relocation of the water meters and the responsibility of the water lines from the meters to the individual units. He said that WSSC would have preferred to move forward with the project and relocate the meters at street level (current WSSC standard) but cannot bring new lines up to the meters on the individual units the way GHI prefers. Mr. Williams advised that WSSC will repair breaks in GHI as necessary but the replacement project has been abandoned and they were moving forward with other projects.

Mr. Putens questioned what standards Mr. Williams was referring to. Mayor Davis and Ms. Mach mentioned the 1958 agreement between WSSC, GHI and the City, and noted the standards from that agreement had worked well for 75 years. They asked when and why the standards had changed. Mr. Williams apologized for not having WSSC Counsel and engineering staff present to address the questions related to the GHI water line replacement project. He said he would check with WSSC engineering staff for and provide answers to Council's questions on the standards.

Mr. Ralph advised GHI was acceptable to having the meters placed at street level if WSSC would accept ownership of the water lines from the meters to the individual units. He explained that GHI would have to take responsibility for approximately 21,000 feet of water lines run from the meters at street level to the 579 masonry units involved in this phase of the replacement project. He said GHI would need to collect an estimated \$42,000 per year from members to build up the appropriate reserves.

Mr. Putens questioned why WSSC won't assume responsibility for the new lines from the street level to the units. Mr. Williams explained the current procedure/standard is that the water lines become the homeowner's responsibility once WSSC runs the lines from the meters. Mr. Jordan asked whether WSSC would warranty the lines for 20-30 years. Mr. Williams said he would check with WSSC engineering staff on this question.

Mr. Ralph mentioned that WSSC did replace water lines in the 4 court Crescent Road and 5 court Eastway in 2008 and 2009 and left the meters at the individual units. Mr. Williams and Mr. Traber said they were not familiar with this work.

Council stressed the stalemate between WSSC and GHI was not acceptable. After further discussion, Council requested a letter urging WSSC to continue to work with GHI towards resolving this issue be included on the agenda of the next regular meeting.

Status of Water Line Replacement Project in Other Areas of the City

Mayor Davis said the water line replacement work had been completed in Boxwood and Lakewood several years ago and asked when replacement work would begin in Lakeside. Mr. Williams said he would check with WSSC staff and provide the City with a timeline for this work.

Sewer Repairs

Mayor Davis said she had added this item on the agenda this evening to determine the status of the following WSSC sewer repair projects about which WSSC had notified the City in April of 2012.

Permit 661-C: 14 Ridge Road, 11-A Southway, 3-D Laurel Hill Road

Permit 662-C: 11 Crescent Road, 6-M Research Road

Permit 663-C: 100 block Lakeside Drive, 24-J Ridge Road

Permit 664-C: Intersection of Hanover Parkway and Mandan Road

Permit 665-C: Mandan Road near 7246

Mr. Williams said he will check on these projects and report back to Council.

Greenbriar Wastewater Pumping Station

Mr. Selock explained the history of the Greenbriar Wastewater Pumping Station (WWPS). He reviewed a handout detailing the recent WWPS upgrade work which was completed in October of 2012. Mr. Selock advised the generator for the facility is scheduled for replacement in 2013-2014.

Handling of Customer Resident Complaints

Mr. Williams explained there is a customer friendly process in place to handle customer complaints and callers can choose between an automated system and speaking to a person directly. Mr. Williams also advised that David Wilkins is the customer advocate for this area and residents should contact him if their complaints are not resolved. Mr. Wilkins can be reached at 301-206-4371 or dwilkin1@wsscwater.com.

Budget/Fee Projections

Mr. Traber presented a detailed PowerPoint presentation on the WSSC budget and budget process, including a review of facilities and water and sewer line inventories.

Mr. Jordan asked if WSSC offered any grant programs for individuals or homeowner associations for water/sewer line replacement work. Mr. Traber said no.

Bill Orleans, Greenbelt, asked and was provided answers to several questions.

Informational Items

Council requested the Greenbelt Metro Area and MD 193 Corridor Sector Plan and Proposed Sectional Map Amendment be included on the agenda for the Legislative Dinner on December 10, 2012.

Council discussed its meeting dates for 2013. They requested this item be included on the agenda of the next meeting.

The meeting ended at 10:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Cindy Murray
City Clerk*